

Claims

1. A method of communicating a warning signal comprising:
 - mounting a transmitter/receiver to an emergency vehicle that outputs a digital signal that is detectable within a range;
 - 5 said transmitter/receiver blanked from its own signal but capable of receiving the signal of approaching emergency vehicles;
 - mounting a receiver in a motor vehicle that responds to the digital signal from the transmitter/receiver of a transmitting emergency vehicle to detect said digital signal ;
 - and
 - 10 displaying a visual warning from a visual indicator mounted to the motor vehicle in response to the digital signal from the transmitter/receiver to warn a motorist and/or an other emergency vehicle of a presence of the transmitting emergency vehicle within said range.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the digital signal is a UHF/LMS signal.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the digital signal is encoded with information conveying the type of emergency vehicle from which the digital signal is originating.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitter of an emergency vehicle outputs a digital signal that occurs at periodic intervals.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the receiver of said emergency vehicle is turned off during the periodic intervals that the transmitter output occurs.
- 25 6. Apparatus for communicating a warning signal comprising:
 - a transmitter in an emergency vehicle that outputs a digital signal that is detectable within a range;
 - a receiver that responds to the digital signal from the transmitter in an emergency
 - 30 vehicle to detect said digital signal ; and

visual indicator mounted to the motor vehicle that is activated in response to the digital signal from the transmitter to warn a motorist in said motor vehicle of a presence of the emergency vehicle within said range.

5 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the digital signal is a UHF/LMS signal.

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the digital signal is encoded with information conveying the type of emergency vehicle from which the digital signal is originating.

10 9. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the transmitter of an emergency vehicle outputs a digital signal that occurs at periodic intervals.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the receiver of said emergency vehicle is turned off during the periodic intervals that the transmitter output occurs.

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11. Apparatus comprising:

a receiver that responds to detection of a digital signal originating from an emergency vehicle by initiating an output signal; and

a display for displaying a visual warning in response to the output signal from the receiver ; said display including a visual indicator mounted to the motor vehicle in
20 response to the digital signal from the transmitter to warn a motorist and/or an other emergency vehicle of a presence of the emergency vehicle within said range

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